

SOCCER

Voice

Vol.3 No.23
26th June 1985
Price: \$1.00



Printed & Published by P.L. Roder Pty. Ltd.
201-211 Botany Road, Waterloo N.S.W. — Phone: 698 7977
P.O. Box 196 Waterloo 2017

SOCCER—

AND THE BIASED SPORTS MEDIA

Sharks upset

PREMIERSHIP favorites Balmain, heavily depleted by Test commitments, were mauled savagely by Jack Gibson's young Cronulla side at Ronson Oval yesterday.

The 22-0 thrashing also saw the Sharks toppled from the top of the league.

The five-tries-to-one win continued Jack Gibson's faith in omen. Balmain players — Ronch and W... the way we planned it, touring N... coach Brian Smith after

I rabb

ILLAWARRA . . . 14
SOUTHS . . . 10

Gill had some personal consolation sprinted 50 metres to score the only try in the second half. The Steelers had to do it tough with the

LAPH, Monday, June 24, 1985.

'85

'ape' as luck

eserts Wests

30 points

opener

CANTERBURY-Bankstown coach Warren Ryan has given five-eighth Phil Sigsworth the chance to erase some painful memories in the first televised rugby league premiership match at the SCG tonight.

Sigsworth was given a giant vote of confidence by Ryan earlier this week when named in first grade for the Manly match which will be telecast live by Channel 10 at 7.30pm. The former New South Wales representative made the switch from

to the card-suit played when he was a four minutes fullback. The critics have been quick to point out the Sea Eagles' worst showing during a recent month-long slump have coincided with Haier being sidelined. The nippy scrum-feeder is touring New Zealand.



CANBERRA . . . 42
NORTH SYDNEY . . . 12

CANBERRA belied its track record thrash the North Sydney Bears at North Sydney Oval yesterday.

It was Canberra's first win on ground, keeping alive its semi-final berth.

Balders' coach Purser was in his team's prime. We really



The apparent discrimination against soccer in the Australian media is difficult to understand.

Peter Sheean, the commercial director for the Australian Soccer Federation, has already been highly critical of lack of support from the media for the national team.

Apart from Channel SBS (0/28) and results on some of the commercial TV channels, soccer is generally ignored unless there happens to be a Brussels disaster.

For example, in the past week, the Sydney Daily Telegraph has published exactly ONE STORY on Australian soccer.

Admittedly the paper has had industrial troubles but there was nothing in Saturday or Sunday's editions, or on Monday despite 15 National League matches having been played over the weekend.

Yet in the six day period, the Telegraph printed more than 30 stories on rugby league, which easily exceeded the combined total of soccer, rugby union and Australian Rules.

Soccer has been a competitive sport in Australia since 1880 and is played by thousands of Australian men, women and children. It is not a foreign sport any more than rugby league or rugby union.

And it is time some of our media outlets recognised not only the sport but the millions of people involved in it.

LEADERS DROP POINTS • IARCONI OVERTAKES SLICKERS • MAULED SAINTS STRIKE BACK

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SOCCER

Voice

EDITORIAL

The Council of Clubs, who in effect, is that body that gives directives to the National League, had decided that the present format of the League will remain the same in 1986 as it was this year. But now there seem to be some second thoughts about this.

Critics of this format are right on a number of points, the main one being that the league that call itself 'National' is in effect N.S.W. versus the rest.

These critics are right because whereas the Southern Division is nothing more than a NSW State League.

Another area that has been criticised is that, especially in the Northern Division, there are teams that are below standard, forever in the struggling stage, and have now proved to be useless to the league, having failed in what at the beginning of the season promised to be a contribution in the matter of crowds.

The Council of Clubs is very well aware of this situation, yet very unlikely to do anything about it. The decision had been taken before the current season started, and therefore there is no question of cutting dead wood.

The NSL is burdened with this decision, and is helpless. It is like a boat that wants to progress but cannot move an inch because it is anchored to the bottom.

It is quite probable that errors committed in the past will be repeated, even when it is clear that the cutting of dead wood will be beneficial to the NSL.

Last week, news came from West Germany announcing a possible reduction of teams in the Bundesliga.

This measure may be taken in West Germany because of a reduction in attendance.

In some unhealthy fashion, this news may encourage certain people because it shows that we are not alone in drawing small crowds, which is a phenomenon present practically all over the world, with the exception of Italy.

But there is nothing encouraging in this. What there is for us in it, is a lesson. And this is that if our league contained fewer clubs, this would help in concentrating club strengths, club resources, helps in generating a higher standard of football, and above all, concentrates attendances, with bigger crowds at a smaller number of grounds.

Of course, for anything like this to take place, clubs, even those who prefer to be in the red as long as they are in the NSL, have to be persuaded that it is more beneficial to them to compete in a State League. The problem is that it will be very hard to persuade NSW clubs about this because these clubs are in a State League already, since they have no travel expenses to save by going into State League proper.

The Whole business of reducing the number of teams in the NSL has to be planned to take place in stages over a number of years, each year relegating four clubs, two from each Division, and promoting two, one in each division.

Ideally, for our conditions, the League should comprise no more than 16 clubs, eight in each division, or better still, return to one 16 team division, as it was in 1983.

As we said, it will be hard to persuade the clubs that this will be to the benefit of Australian Soccer. But it is, and not only because then there will be no frantic catching up to do, when games are washed out, as there is at the present time, with games mid-week, on Saturday, and again 24 hours later. The benefits cover a much bigger area than just that.

COVER PHOTO

MARK BARTON of St George (left) and Olympic defender Stuart Johnston, fight for possession of the ball in the match that Olympic won 3-1 at Pratten Park last Saturday.

Photo: Tom Koprowski

THIS WEEK'S PHOTOGRAPHERS:

ZEPPPOS — Olympic Vs Leichhardt
TOM KOPROWSKI — Olympic Vs St George
DES PAPP — Melb.Croatia Vs Brisbane City
JOE JANKO — Adelaide City Vs Preston

Typesetting & Layout by:
BOTANY GRAPHICART PRODUCTIONS
 201/211 Botany Road, Waterloo, NSW, 2017 Tel: (02) 699 7876

TO BE or NOT TO BE!

Relegation — to be or not to be!

Over the past few weeks, that has been the question among National League clubs in the Northern Division following published doubts on whether Newcastle and Canberra could be relegated if they finished last.

The doubt exists because they are not members of the NSW Federation and it was understood the last team in the NSW Federation affiliated clubs would be relegated.

NSL Executive Director Stefan Kamasz has been quick to put the doubts at rest and has also caused that well-known sinking feeling to appear among clubs with the comment that two teams can be relegated at the end of this season.

Kamasz has issued an 8-point circular to clubs spelling out what will happen at the end of the season.

1. THE BOTTOM PLACED TEAM UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE NSW AND VICTORIAN SOCCER FEDERATION WILL BE RELEGATED, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY FINISH IN BOTTOM POSITION OR NOT.

2. The NSW and Victorian State League premiers may apply to join the League and subject to meeting the criteria, will be promoted.

3. In the event that the State League premier does not apply or fails to meet the criteria, the second placed may apply, and subject to meeting the criteria, will be promoted.

4. In the event that the second placed team does not apply or fails to meet the criteria, the relegated team may apply, and subject to meeting the criteria will be reinstated.

5. THE CLUB FINISHING 12TH, NOT BEING A TEAM FROM WITHIN THE NSW OR VICTORIAN SOCCER FEDERATION, (ie NNSW, ACT, SA, OR QLD) WILL BE RELEGATED.

6. The State League premier club from that State may apply to join the League, and subject to meeting the criteria, will be promoted.

7. In the event the State League premier does not apply or fails to meet the criteria, the second placed team may apply, and subject to meeting the criteria, will be promoted.

8. In the event the second placed team does not apply or fails to meet the criteria, the relegated team may apply, and subject to meeting the criteria, will be reinstated.

In other words, if either Canberra City or Newcastle Rosebud finishes last, a NSW Federation club will also be relegated.

The important clauses are one and five which spell out whether one or two teams will face the axe.

If a NSW Federation team finishes last in the Northern Division, then Newcastle and Canberra, if they finish second last, will remain in the League.

But it will be a two-team drop, if Newcastle or Canberra occupies last place at the end of the competition.

Now that the issue has been spelt out for coaches and secretaries, there should be plenty of action in the lower half of the table.

In the Southern Division, the issue at this stage seems to rest between Footscray and Green Gully, who have held the last two places for some time.

But the Northern Division presents a far more interesting scenario.

Last week, a mere three points separated the bottom seven teams with Wollongong trailing the field but only one point adrift.

With two thirds of the season gone, the competition is close and tight and any one of seven or eight teams are within the relegation drop.

It is even closer than last year, although the relegation of Parramatta Melita last season was not decided until the final round.

In fact, it is so close that

a win by some of the teams in the bottom eight could put them within a couple of points of fourth placed Olympic.

At the end of the 1984 season, the top five teams led by Sydney City were separated by 12 points to fifth placed Blacktown.

But only three points were between Croatia in sixth place and Melita who were second last, nine points ahead of Wollongong, who had the developing status exemption along with Canberra and Newcastle.

After last weekend's round, the competition has clearly split again into two divisions.

Croatia, Marconi, Sydney City and Olympic are clear in the top with Canberra and Blacktown separated by

by
Ted Simmons

one point in the battle for fifth place.

But there are only six points separating St George, Monaro, Penrith, Leichhardt, Newcastle and Wollongong.

Leichhardt has two games in hand and St George one match with only six rounds remaining to complete the season.

Every weekend will now be a nail-biting excursion for the teams in the lower half of the table and again, it could be in doubt to the last round as to which team, and whether it will be two teams, who will face the relegation chop.

FROM FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE

Socceroo David Mitchell seems to have jumped out of the frying pan into the fire.

Mitchell arrived back in Australia last week with three big problems — a 12 months suspension in Asia, a contract dispute with Sydney City and a bad left groin.

He stopped in Melbourne on his way home to Adelaide to see a specialist for an opinion on whether an operation should be held on the groin.

The operation, similar to the treatment for his right groin last year, will keep him sidelined for two weeks but will enable him to be back in full training within six weeks.

Mitchell also has to settle the long dispute with Sydney City.

He claims he signed a two year contract to expire on July 24 this year but Sydney City officials say it won't expire until August.

His future decisions will depend on what happens in his three troubled areas.

Mitchell underwent a groin operation last year before he returned to Glasgow Rangers and thought the operation should have been made on both groins.

Even if he has the operation, he will still be fit in time to trial for the Australian World Cup squad if he is selected. The six weeks lay-off would take him to mid-August with still a month to go before Australia's first match against New Zealand in late September.

"My plans will also depend on what happens with the Australian team," he said.

"If I am selected, and we qualify through Oceania, I will stay in Australia. But if we don't, I have had a couple of offers from Holland and will probably try there rather than attempt

me chasing the centre half and the judiciary committee decided to suspend me as the instigator," said Mitch.

"But the player who



a club during the English mid-season."

And what really happened in Hong Kong?

According to Mitchell, the opposing centre half, who had been niggling him during the game, jumped at the goalkeeper during a corner and was chased by Mitchell and a team-mate to bring his action to the attention of the referee.

Fights immediately broke out, with the opposition goalkeeper running 60 metres to try and attack Mitchell. One player even got off the bench and grabbed a corner flag to join the melee.

"In the video of the game, the camera showed

started the whole incident got off free. His actions were not seen by the linesmen or referee. And my Seiko team-mate who also got a year's suspension, is in the Hong Kong national team and cannot play for them in World Cup matches.

"I'm certain the ban only applies in Asia, which means I will be able to play for Australia in the World Cup."

Mitchell hopes to clear up the contract wrangle and then join Adelaide City for the remainder of the season.

He said he promised to play with them and would be available for the last few rounds as well as the playoffs if they make the top five.

OLYMPIC AIRWAYS NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE Northern Division Preview

Sydney City Vs Marconi

At Sydney Athletic Field, Saturday 3pm

This match, which is undoubtedly the most important of the weekend, will go a long way to deciding this season's minor premier.

Only a brave man would dare predict that the battle for the title will not be decided between three teams — Marconi, Sydney City and Sydney Croatia.

The recently sticky Athletic Field pitch is not the ideal venue at present but the Slickers must be confident of repeating their recent success over Sydney Croatia there, with a win here.

But Marconi's knife edged striking trio of David Lowe, Rod Brown and Mat Jankovics have other ideas.

The former youth international pairing of Lowe and Brown scored a goal each in Marconi's 2-0 win over Blacktown City last Sunday and are striking form at the right time of the season.

The Slickers still have a match in hand against Leichhardt and with this knowledge Marconi's coach Les Scheinflug will devise a game based around getting maximum points back to Fairfield.

Scheinflug knows that Eddie Thomson's team has only conceded 15 goals this season — the best record in the league's Northern Division and is sure to play the ball wide across the midfield to run Slickers Murray Barnes and Joe Watson around.

Watson has proved in recent weeks that he is still one of the best players on the ball in Australian soccer and Scheinflug must deny him space.

At the same time Scheinflug will be desperately trying to guess what role his elected Soccerroo John Kosmina will play.

Kosmina has played effectively as a foil for runners Frank Farina and Grant Lee on numerous occasions but Thomson may decide he is better suited to out and out target man in big games — his role with the national team.

The intrigue does not end there. Both defences are contrasting in style with Alex Robertson and Tony Henderson playing decisive roles respectively.

The Slickers may get home by the odd goal but it's not one to forecast with any certainty.

Newcastle United Vs Blacktown City

At Adamstown Oval, Saturday 2.30pm

The League's most unpredictable side Blacktown City should be too strong for a disappointing Newcastle Rosebuds United at Adamstown Oval this Saturday.

Blacktown's win-lose sequence is frustrating fans of the Western Suburbs club, who are entitled at times to believe their team is premiership material.

And while they may make the top five semi-final playoffs the Demons' inconsistency will prevent them from pressuring the front runners.

For their part Newcastle look genuine relegation candidates.

The team is going through a bad spell and does not have the arsenal to experiment.

This frustrates coach Willy Gallagher who knows on its day his team can beat anyone in the League.

Their performance in losing 3-1 to Canberra City Olympians at the National Sports Centre was possibly their worst of

HOW WE SEE THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION AROUND SYDNEY



the season.

Gallagher relieved Joe Senkalski of the captaincy last week but this did not have the desired effect.

Senkalski is sadly out of form and Newcastle need him at his best if they are to escape relegation.

Penrith City Vs Sydney City

At Cook Park, Sunday 3pm

Penrith City's chances of repeating its surprise 1-0 win over League favourite Sydney City in the first round lie in the fact that the Slickers will have played a bruising match 24 hours before.

Slickers coach Eddie Thomson is faced with the task of lifting his side after it plays Marconi in a highly important clash at the Athletic Field.

He knows that his team which lifts itself for big games tends to be complacent against those near the bottom of the ladder.

In the space of a few short weeks the Slickers have dropped valuable points to Wollongong and Inter Monaro while they have knocked off Croatia in scintillating style.

Penrith's year long struggle for goals will not be helped by the fact it faces one of the biggest defences in the game.

Slickers Soccerroo defender Steve O'Connor and sweeper Alec Robinson appear to have too much height for Penrith's strikers Randell Easthorpe, Rene Ricata and Brian Jackson.

Inter-Monaro Vs Sydney Croatia

At National Sports Centre, Sunday 3pm

Inter-Monaro's stocks for this match against League leader Sydney Croatia took an unexpected turn when they earned a surprise 2-2 draw with Sydney City last Sunday.

If simple mathematics can relate to the topsy turvy of this season's championship then Inter, in its debut season in the League, should defeat Croatia.

This scenario can be drawn from the fact that the Slickers downed the Croats 2-0 a fortnight ago.

At least their draw will give coach Frank Maccaroni some confidence knowing that he had some key players out against City.

But in all honesty it is hard to see Croatia dropping a point with former pin-up boy Eddie Krncevic guesting with the League's best supported club.

Krncevic showed all his class learnt on the rough playing fields of Europe with three fine goals in the club's strip last weekend.

He scored two against a frustrated Wollongong defence on Saturday in Croatia's 5-1 win and backed up on Sunday to steer home the ever so important equaliser in their draw with St George.

Krncevic's effort was all the more significant as the St George defence gave him no space to weave his skillful ball control.

With Jimmy Patikas and Graham Arnold continuing their recent brilliant form and Captain/Coach Vedrin Rozic keeping a tight control of Croatia's defence, Inter will need to show much enterprise to pressure the League leader.

Sydney Olympic Vs Wollongong City

At Pratten Park, Sunday 3pm

When Jim Patinellis the likable president of Sydney Olympic reflects upon the season past he will be satisfied in the fact that one of his relative gambles paid off.

When Patinellis outlayed money for Scottish FA Cup hero Davie Provan from the world famous Glasgow Celtic he knew he was on a winner.

But history has shown that the value of guest players is over estimated.

Not so with Provan who has proved a god-send to Olympic.

His two goals against St George effectively denied any chance Saints had of being competitive.

These goals brought his tally to five in four games and although he did not score in Olympic's 2-1 win over Leichhardt on Sunday, his mere presence lifted the forward line.

During his five games for the club Provan proved to be an outstanding ambassador for Celtic, Scotland and himself and is keen to return to Australia for a similar stint next season.

Olympic did not drop a point with Provan on the pitch and are near certainties to qualify for the semi-finals.

Even without Provan and the possibility that Soccerroo striker Marshall Soper may

succumb to a series of heavy knocks Olympic has the reserve forward strength to defeat Wollongong City.

The Wolves earned a point from their scoreless draw with Penrith City last Sunday but it was not enough to steer them from the competition cellar.

Although they are tenacious the Wolves appear to be outclassed.

Marconi Vs Leichhardt

At Marconi Stadium, Sunday 3pm

The traditional Italian derby receives a much needed boost by the fact that Marconi is backing up for its second game in as many days.

This undoubtedly brings the teams closer together but it is near impossible to predict anything but a Marconi win.

But in saying that it should be pointed out that Apia looked very impressive when it defeated the Fairfielders 4-1 in the first round at Lambert Park.

Unfortunately for Apia supporters any semblance of that form is long gone.

In an unusual after match comment Sydney Olympic coach Manfred Schaefer described Apia after his team's 2-1 win last Sunday as the worst he had seen.

The former Soccerroo who mixed it with the best Apia had in the sixties and seventies could not believe their form.

In an attempt to alleviate a desperate situation Apia played their latest signing Louis Dounis but the former Canterbury-Marrickville striker found it hard to penetrate.

Ironically former Apia Peter Treddinick and Ian Gray look to be their old club's greatest threat.

Marconi have the edge in every facet and should be far too strong.

St George Vs Canberra City

At St George Stadium, Sunday 3pm

St George proved beyond most people's doubt last weekend that the proud club is too good to finish in relegation trouble.

But by the same token Saints proved they are not up to the class of the top teams and are at long odds to finish higher than sixth this season.

This is despite their impressive 2-2 draw with league leader Sydney Croatia from whom they took up the initiative but were denied by former Soccerroo Eddie Krncevic whose late goal earned Croatia a point.

But over the entire weekend which included a 3-1 loss to Sydney Olympic and defence which is still wondering which way Davie Provan went, they looked only a slightly better than average outfit.

Without Soccerroo 'policeman' David Ratcliffe, Saints defence would be in disarray.

Ratcliffe is a class player and any one who doubts his qualities of courage in keeping Saints back division together should try a closer analysis.

This match with Canberra City Olympians, which finally broke through for a home win 3-1 over Newcastle Rosebuds last Sunday, is one Saints should win.

But there is always an amount of uncertainty in one's mind when you tip Saints and young Manis Lamond, Canberra's replacement for Frank Farina, in good touch the scales appear evenly weighted.

NORTHERN DIVISION ROUND-UP

MIRACLE MAN MACCARONE DOES IT AGAIN

Just when Sydney City had a chance to catch up with the leaders, Croatia, who were held to a draw by St George, the Slickers were pegged down to the same score by Inter-Monaro, the team that had been written off by all before Maccarone took over as coach.

SYDNEY CITY — 2
MONARO — 2

This last draw against the team that in their last match had beaten no other than the leaders, is ample proof that Monaro is in the NSL to stay.

The match kicked off with Sydney City determined to make the most of this chance to catch up with the leaders, but it was Monaro that first took the ball up into their opponent's box.

A clearance from the back was hooked by Thamnidis, who then went around Robertson and pushed the ball ahead of him inside the Slickers penalty area, where he was brought down by Rodriguez. The penalty was clear as crystal, and Mr. Reeves quickly blew his whistle and pointed to the disc. The kick was taken by Ambrosino, who converted from 11 metres.

But then a good move by Kosmina and Lee found Barnes who used his height well to score the equaliser with a good header.

Monaro went on to survive rather tricky situations created by Lee, Kosmina, Gomez

and others, and here it must be mentioned that Hocking, the Monaro goalkeeper, played a great part with some excellent saves.

In the 38th minute, Santolin saved temporarily with a 'hands' inside the area, but Kosmina took the kick and converted from the spot.

With the Slickers now in the lead, Sydney City looked home and hosed; but the last word was not yet said.

This came when Willox equalised in the 60th minute.

At this time news came over the intercom that St George were winning against Croatia, and strengthened by this, Sydney City put everything into the match to take both points, but Hocking saved brilliantly on a number of occasions when it looked the Slickers would get their winner.

In the end, it was a point saved for the Slickers, when de Marigny saved on the line a certain goal that would have given Monaro an unexpected win.

With this draw, Monaro are now three points away from the bottom, while Sydney City are three points behind the leaders.



Two wins in a row saw Marconi shooting into 2nd place, overtaking Sydney City, who were held to a draw by Monaro.

BLACKTOWN — 0
MARCONI — 2

This match was a repeat of the one played earlier against Newcastle, with a clean cut superiority of Scheinflug's team, against whom Blacktown could do nothing.

However, it must be said that this time, Blacktown tried to do much more than the earlier opponents were able to do.

But the Demons were not in the same class against the speedy Marconi outfit, who put their opponents under pressure right from kick off.

However, this time there were no goals forthcoming in the first half, that closed nil all, and this kept the 1300 spectators on their toes.

Blacktown may have felt reassured by this, and came out in the second half determined to get that one goal that they would then defend with their lives.

This favoured Marconi, who found more space in midfield, and in the 55th minute came the first goal for the Green and White, scored by Rod Brown from a melee in the goal area.

In the 74th minute, Lowe went around the Blacktown defence, and was brought

by



Gino De la Scerri

down as soon as he was inside the box. Mr. Martell, who refereed the match gave Marconi a penalty that was converted by Lowe to make it 2 nil.

Marconi now has to play Sydney City in what should prove to be their decisive match, then double up on Sunday against Apia. Neither of these two games should be considered easy, even if Apia seem to be on the point of giving up altogether, and this week end should be the most interesting for the White and Green.



Canberra had a good week end, totalling four points from two games, against Penrith on Saturday, and against Newcastle 24 hours later.

CANBERRA — 3
NEWCASTLE — 1

This second win takes Canberra to 5th place, one point better than Blacktown, who unlike the Arrows, went through the round without a single point.

Newcastle are now in company of Wollongong, and already in a battle with the Wolves, and perhaps Apia and Penrith too, to escape relegation.

For all these four teams, every point counts.



MARCONI THE COMPLETE TEAM

Marconi played the deferred match against Newcastle, and came up winners, 2 Nil.

NEWCASTLE — 0
MARCONI — 2

Marconi has not been very much noticed this year as other teams, especially Croatia stole the limelight in the Northern Division, yet the Green and White are one of the best, most compact teams in this division.

Against the struggling Newcastle, Marconi showed a clean cut superiority, and the team gave an excellent display of good soccer.

It is enough to mention that Newcastle could only approach the Marconi danger area once, although on that occasion the home team could perhaps have scored, when the ball hit the woodwork. But apart from that, it was all Marconi.

In the 28th minute, Carter went up all on his own, and finding no Newcastle player to stop him, scored a personal goal.

The second goal came in the 74th minute when Lowe went down the wing, then squared for Gray, who in the centre simply adjusted the ball for Rod Brown who headed in to beat Gosling.

DISMAL NO OTHER WORD

WOLLONGONG — 0
PENRITH — 0

Following their dismal match against Croatia, Wollongong could not go beyond

a draw with Penrith, who had lost to Canberra on Saturday.

This draw sees the Wolves in bottom place, and Penrith only slightly better two points away.

PENRITH CITY DROP FURTHER BACK

In a deferred match against Canberra at home, Penrith went down to the visitors from the National Capital 1-2.

PENRITH — 1
CANBERRA — 2

The goals came from Wotherspoon for the Penrith team, while Lamond scored both goals for the visitors.

Penrith played without any great vision, but with grit that however, was not enough to stop Lamond scoring his brace of goals that gave Canberra the two points.

Lamond, who came up from the youths, is a fine player with a silky touch, who is fast making a name for himself in the NSL this year. He is one of the stalwarts for Canberra, as his team forges ahead to stay with the top five at the end of the competition.

With Blacktown fast falling behind, this is not impossible for the Canberra team, but in the meantime, the Arrows have to keep an eye on their rivals from Queenbeyan, Inter-Monaro, who are not doing too badly themselves.

St.Goege Vs Olympic
Full Match Report
on Page 6

ST GEORGE STORY FROM CRUTCHES TO GLORY

There would not have been one person watching St George in their deferred match against Olympic, who would have believed the Saints could come back from that poor form to a near defeat of the mighty Croatia, with one Eddie Krncevic in the line up.

CROATIA — 2
ST GEORGE — 2

With this draw, St George should build up enough courage to help them through their next four "comparatively easy" games against Canberra, Blacktown, Leichhardt and Wollongong, before they face Sydney City in Round 21.

The Saints, who have been playing badly, with stale play and no imagination, have enough potential to do this. Whether the team can capitalise from this not very hard programme, remains to be seen.

Whatever the results from these next four games, the club management must be fully aware of the need for change, and the draw against Croatia, excellent as that may be, cannot blind or fool anybody.

With players such as Mike O'Shea, Bozanic, Slater, Morgan and others, Frank Arok has the team, and a team that can lead Croatia with, or without Krncevic 2 nil, should not be in the trouble in which the Saints find themselves.

What St George misses is motivation, and motivation the Saints players seem to have lost since Frank Arok was appointed National Coach. Before that, the Saints had won the National Championship. Since then they have been steadily going down; it can't be just a co-incidence.

However, something happened between Saturday's dismal display against Olympic, with the players bogged down hopelessly as if they had lead in their boots, and Sunday's sparkling display against Croatia, playing as well, and at times better than Rozic's side in a match the Saints could have won, if a ball that hit under the crossbar had gone in.

CROATIA DEMOLISHES WOLLONGONG

With once Australian striker Eddie Krncevic 'guesting' for the team, title chasers Sydney Croatia had a field day against the hapless Wolves, scoring 5 goals against Wollongong.

CROATIA — 5
WOLLONGONG — 1

Guest star Krncevic, now playing in the Belgian first division, helped himself to two goals, both scored before the first 8 minutes of the match had ticked away.

Wollongong pulled one back when Willis scored from the spot, but soon Jurin re-established the distance, and the first

half closed with Croatia leading 3-1 and safely home.

Krncevic was left behind for the second half, but Patikas and Arnold added another two goals to send the wolves home humiliated with their tails between their legs.

The one negative aspect, again, was the small crowd; only 3,466 people went to watch the temporary return of Krncevic to Australian soccer. It's a very unhealthy sign that, if the trend continues, does not augur well for the game of Soccer.

OLYMPIC MAKE HAY WITH PROVAN

Olympic followed their big win against St George with another against Apia at Lambert Park on Sunday, and with the 4 points from these two games now goes to 4th place in the table.

LEICHHARDT — 1
OLYMPIC — 2

The narrow score does not indicate the difference between Bottalico's mediocre team and the high flying Olympic, who could have won easily scoring more goals.

Provan, for Olympic, who played only 65 minutes in his last match as guest for the 'Greek' team, hit the woodwork in the 5th minute from a free kick.

But then, the in-form Raskopoulos opened the score in the 27' and from that moment Olympic knew they had the points.

Dounis had the greatest, and we should also say only chance to score for Apia in the 37th minute, when face to face with Meier could find nothing better to do than to shoot very tamely at the Olympic goalie. Johnstone then scored Olympic's second goal one minute before half time.

Towards the end, Morsello, against the run of play, reduced the arrears.

Now Apia, one point from the bottom can do very little except try to save itself from the big drop for this year. After that, the Maroons should scrap the team, and build afresh, if they don't want their glorious old name to be completely forgotten.



Soper heads the ball, but Bertogna stays earth-bound



Here Bertogna goes up to win a header from a group of players



Kalentzis with a drive that Bertogna (left) fails to block



Stankovic goes up and heads down a ball that hits Kalantzis back

BAND AIDS FOR ST GEORGE

Olympic are fast forgetting the recent bad times when they were themselves in the doldrums, and have now thrown away their crutches that have been picked by the badly mauled Saints, all bandaged up and with band aids all over themselves. This St George side has forgotten how to play football and against Olympic was a team old and decrepit. The change came 24 hours later.

Olympic — 3 St George — 1

Against the young and effervescent Olympic, bolstered in no small way by the magic that is David Provan, St George went through the motion of stale play broken only by the

Slater's cross was slightly behind Bozanic who with a millimetric overhead kick sent the ball under the crossbar and into the corner of the net for what must definitely be one of the best

reasons, St George ceased to exist.

A long ball from the rear was glanced by Soper to Provan. Soper's silky through ball cut the Saints defence completely out, and Greedy did the only thing he could when he left his line to close the angle; but Provan slotted the ball expertly past him into the net.

Olympic attacked again soon after this, and the

George managed to close the first 45 minutes on a 1-1 scoreline.

But one minute into the second half, Kalantzis pushed the ball to Provan, who pushed it forward. Again the Saints defence was caught flat footed. Again, Greedy went out to

metres that missed the target, and an excellent try by Cotton, who had come in as a replacement, and who engaged Meier to practically his only save of the day when he shot on the turn, after the Saints forwards had bogged down inside the Olympic penalty area.

We pointed out that players such as Soper often get particular attention from opposition defences, but while the Olympic coach agreed with this, he

Ratcliffe heads the ball away from Ziras



first 10 minutes or so when Bozanic fired the imagination of all soccer lovers with perhaps the most beautiful goal of the season.

But after that, and after Provan had equalised for Olympic, St George gave up the fight, and as the game progressed, could hardly stay on their feet. Under Provan's prompting, Raskopoulos, Kalantzis and Soper led a merry dance around the St George team.

Against Olympic, the Saints ran the first risk in the first minute, when Provan robbed a ball in a tussle with Skeen, then sent left to Kalantzis who, after a good run, crossed into the goal-mouth, where the ball was scrambled to safety by the frantic St. George defence.

St George reacted bravely, and after Slater had cut back to Morgan, the English import put Green through. The action was concluded with a good shot by Green that missed narrowly.

Up to this time, the game was quite exciting with the ball going up and down from one end of the ground to the other.

In the 7th minute some excellent work from Robbie Slater down the right flank, and a cross by the latter, resulted in the opening goal.

goals ever seen on Australian grounds, and one to match the best scored anywhere.

St George followed this goal with another good action started by Morgan, and worked well by Ratcliffe, Slater and Bozanic, whose cross was deflected in corner.

That action took place in the 12th minute, and when soon after, Provan equalised for Olympic, for all practical

Saints defence were in all sorts of trouble.

St George continued to play attractive football for some time, but in front of goal never looked very dangerous. Skeen brought up a number of balls, but had no one in any good position to follow through. Slater was pushed away from the centre, and had trouble extricating himself from his marker; and when with right and left twists of his body Slater succeeded in this, he always found another defender, mostly Rogers, ready to tackle him as soon as he was in the clear.

Morgan, who among other things, was singled out to be pushed and jostled, in a way he is obviously not accustomed to, and in a manner he evidently resents, could do very little as he was left to his own devices; and Bozanic had his hands full trying to control Soper, Kalantzis and Provan, as had Green.

In the 38th minute there was some excellent team work between Raskopoulos and Provan, and Greedy saved the bacon when he dived at the feet of the English guest to pluck the ball from his feet.

However, though the supremacy of Olympic was there for all to see, St

stop him, and again Provan slipped the ball past the St George and National 'keeper and into the net.

In the 68th minute, Greedy brought the house down with a great reflex action save from Soper and was applauded by the 3000 plus spectators for his great save.

With the score 2-1 in Olympic's favour, the Saints were expected to do more. But the players looked slow, heavy and dispirited; and all they could produce was a shot by Ratcliffe from 30

In the 79th minute, Koussas, who had also come in as replacement, found a ball at his feet, rather providentially, and made good use of it when he slotted this home past the onrushing Terry Greedy.

After the match, Coach Manfred Schaeffer would not comment on the Olympic post-Provan, or whether Kalantzis would render without the English guest as he has been doing with him by his side. What Schaeffer was unhappy

insisted that these players should get some protection from referees.

OLYMPIC: Meier, Rogers, Jennings, Ziras, Stankovics, Johnstone, Raskopoulos, Soper (Koussas 75'), Patalis, Provan, Kalantzis.

ST GEORGE: Greedy, Skeen, Green, Barton (Cotton 60'), Ratcliffe, M. O'Shea, Slater, Bozanic, Morgan, J. O'Shea, Ricoy.

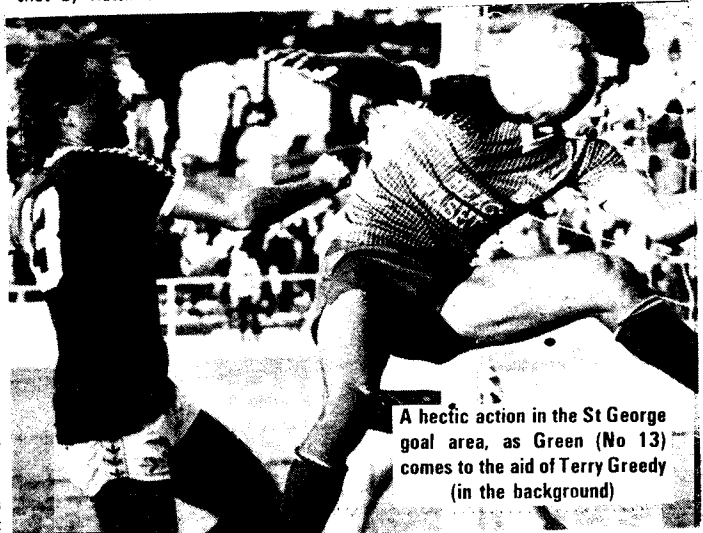
GOALS: Provan 13', 46'; Koussas 79' (Olympic); Bozanic 8' (St George).

REFEREE: R. Lorenc.

CROWD: 3,273



GREEN of St George



A hectic action in the St George goal area, as Green (No 13) comes to the aid of Terry Greedy (in the background)



OLYMPIC AIRWAYS SOCCER LEAGUE 85



PROGRAMME - FOR NSL MATCHES ROUND 17

Re-scheduled match

★★★★★★

SYDNEY CITY Vs MARCONI

★★★★★★

Sydney Athletic Field - Kick Off 3pm - Saturday 29th June 1985

NEWCASTLE Vs BLACKTOWN

Adamstown Oval - Kick Off 2.30pm - Saturday 29th June 1985

BRISBANE CITY Vs FOOTSCRAY

Spencer Park - Kick Off 3pm - Sunday 30th June 1985

MONARO Vs SYD. CROATIA

National Sports Centre - Kick Off 3pm - Sunday 30th June 1985

WEST ADEL. Vs MELB. CROATIA

Hindmarsh Stadium - Kick Off 3pm - Sunday 30th June 1985

PENRITH CITY Vs SYDNEY CITY

Cook Park, St Marys - Kick Off 3pm - Sunday 30th June 1985

STH. MELB Vs ADELAIDE CITY

Middle Park - Kick Off 3pm - Sunday 30th June 1985

SYD. OLYMPIC Vs WOLLONGONG

Pratten Park - Kick Off 3pm - Sunday 30th June 1985

PRESTON Vs SUNSHINE G.C.

Connor Reserve - Kick Off 3pm - Sunday 30th June 1985

MARCONI Vs LEICHHARDT

Marconi Stadium - Kick Off 3pm - Sunday 30th June 1985

GREEN GULLY Vs HEIDELBERG

Green Gully Reserve - Kick Off 3pm - Sunday 30th June 1985

ST. GEORGE Vs CANBERRA CITY

St. George Stadium - Kick Off 3pm - Sunday 30th June 1985

BRUNSWICK Vs BRIS. LIONS

Olympic Park No. 2 - Kick Off 3pm - Sunday 30th June 1985

Round 16 - Results and Tables

NORTHERN DIVISION

Wollongong City	0 v 0	Penrith City
Sydney City	2 v 2	Inter-Monaro
Canberra City	3 v 1	Newcastle
Blacktown City	0 v 2	Marconi
Leichhardt	1 v 2	Sydney Olympic
Sydney Croatia	2 v 2	St. George

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SYDNEY CROATIA	16	10	4	2	39	18	22
MARCONI	15	9	4	2	32	17	22
SYDNEY CITY	14	9	3	2	29	15	21
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	16	9	1	6	21	20	19
CANBERRA	16	6	4	6	25	26	17
BLACKTOWN	16	6	3	7	24	20	17
ST. GEORGE	15	4	5	6	18	20	13
INTER-MONARO	16	5	3	8	22	32	13
PENRITH CITY	16	3	6	7	18	21	12
LEICHHARDT	14	5	1	8	17	21	11
NEWCASTLE	16	3	4	9	17	32	10
WOLLONGONG	16	3	4	9	18	38	10

Re-scheduled matches Round 13

19th June. 85'		
Newcastle	0 v 2	Marconi
21st June. 85'		
Penrith City	1 v 2	Canberra City
22nd June. 85'		
Sydney City	P v P	Leichhardt
Sydney Croatia	5 v 1	Wollongong City
Sydney Olympic	3 v 1	St. George



SOUTHERN DIVISION

Heidelberg	1 v 0	West Adelaide
Mlb. Croatia	4 v 1	Brisbane City
Brisbane Lions	1 v 1	Sth. Melbourne
Adelaide City	1 v 2	Preston
Sunshine G.C.	2 v 0	Green Gully
Footscray	1 v 1	Brunswick

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRUNSWICK JUVE	16	9	5	2	26	14	23
STH. MELBOURNE	16	9	4	3	27	18	22
HEIDELBERG	16	8	4	4	25	14	20
MLB. CROATIA	16	8	4	4	20	11	20
SUNSHINE G.C.	16	6	6	4	17	13	18
PRESTON	16	7	2	7	23	23	16
ADELAIDE CITY	16	5	4	7	25	27	14
BRISBANE LIONS	15	5	4	6	14	19	14
WEST ADELAIDE	16	5	3	8	20	25	13
BRISBANE CITY	15	5	2	8	20	29	12
GREEN GULLY	16	3	4	9	14	23	10
FOOTSCRAY	16	3	2	11	15	30	8

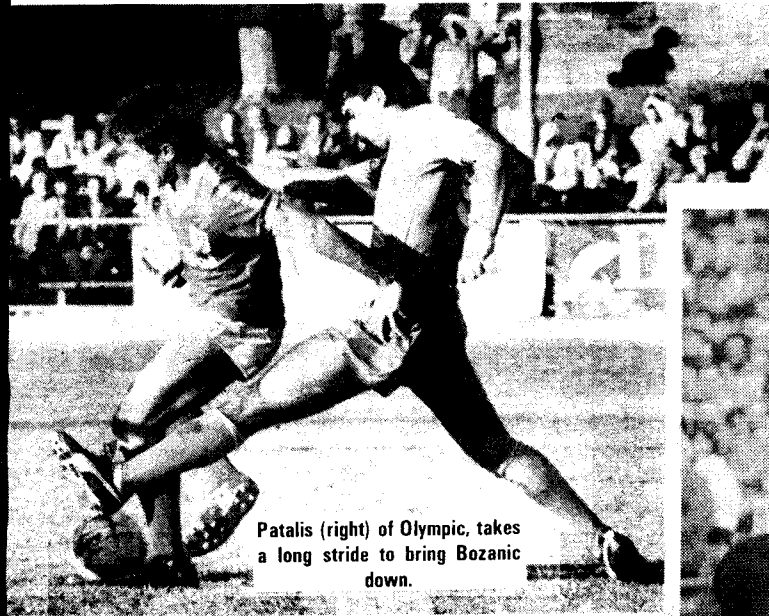


An Adelaide City player needs patching up

ACTION FROM F



John O'Shea, of St.George, (right) tries to stop Kalantzis, of Olympic



Patalis (right) of Olympic, takes a long stride to bring Bozanic down.

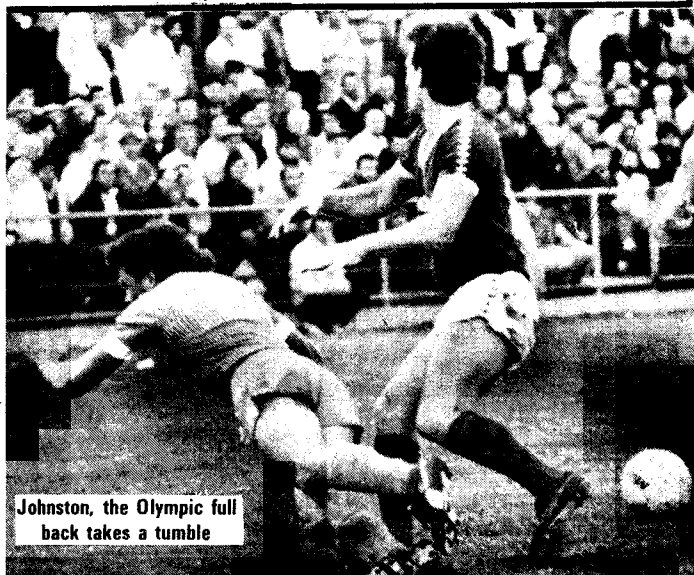


Wishart on ground after 'colliding' with Campbell, of Melb. Croatia



Wishart takes the ball from Ljubic (No 16)

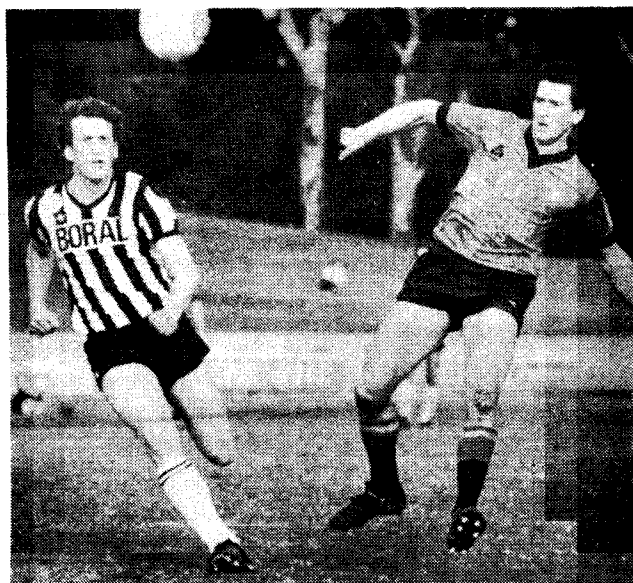
SHOTS JUNE 16



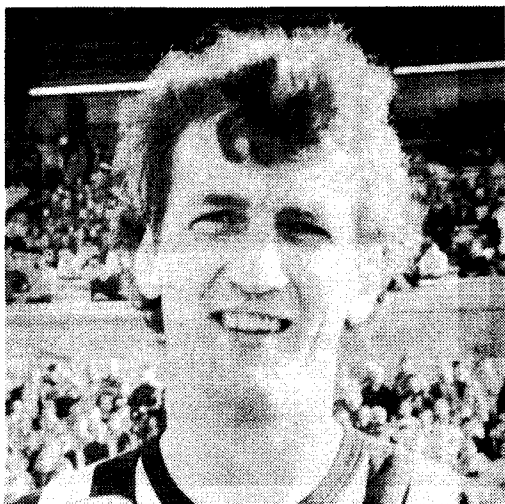
Johnston, the Olympic full back takes a tumble



Opasinas watches closely as Northcote tries to get around him



McAdam (left) gets to the ball first as Preston's C. McMillan is in mid-air (right)

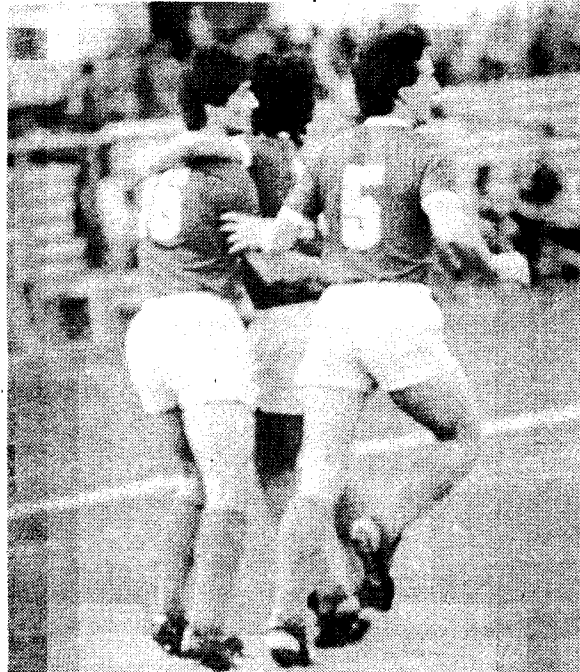


Glasgow Rangers Star Colin McAdam, now guest for Adelaide City

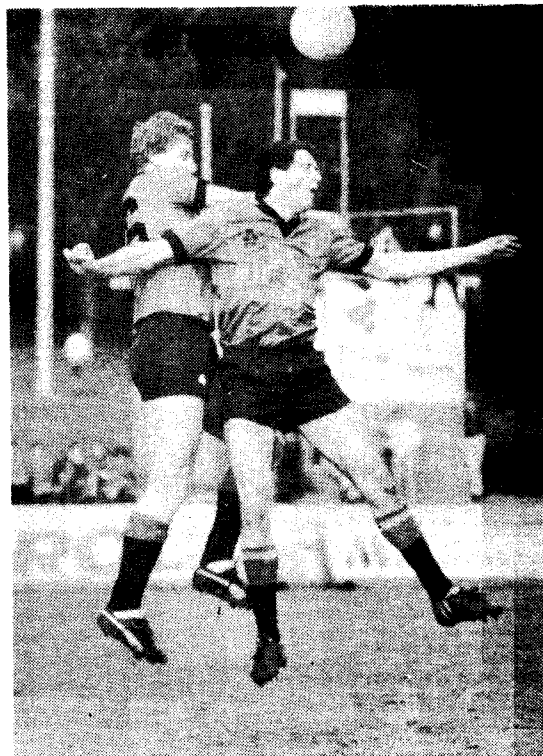
ard of Croatia



B. Hiern



Ljubic congratulated after scoring a goal



Cole (left) crashes into a team mate as he heads the ball clear

SOUTH DIVISION CLUBS

FOOTSCRAY ON THE MOVE

If it hadn't been proven before this game, Footscray JUST showed just how much they've improved since the start of the year in their game against league leaders Juventus at Schintler Reserve on Sunday.

By my reckoning the Blues came of age on Sunday, the match ended 1-1 but quite frankly Juventus was almost played off the park.

JUST, even without it's suspended star Luca Bonacic, created a succession of chances and only some poor finishing, a little bad luck and two great saves from Yakk Banovic stopped Footscray from taking the points.



Boland - at his best

Juventus had it's moments and at times the Zebras seemed to have the game at their mercy.

But Footscray scored what could be termed a moral victory after a display that was full of heart, courage and life.

After dominating early exchanges and creating at least two clear chances Footscray went behind in the 31st minute when Paul Wade's determined running down the left and final cross left Robbie Cullen with the easiest of tap in goal.

But it is an indication of the improvement at JUST that not only didn't they drop their heads after going a goal down, they actually increased the tempo and kept the pressure on the Juventus defence.

Whereas in the Cullen's goal to give Juventus the lead would have sunk the JUST of two months ago, instead the Blues came back twice as hard.

And that is a sign of a good team, certainly not one bound for relegation.

The second half of this excellent game was only a little over a minute old

when JUST got the equaliser with as splendid a goal as one could expect to see all year.

Young full back Tom Karic took the Juventus defence totally by surprise with a low, hard drive which fairly rocketed into the Juve net from just inside the centre circle, a magnificently taken goal which brought the crowd to it's feet.

Both teams created chances in an evenly poised second half but in the final ten minutes, when the match was there for the taking, it was JUST, not Juventus, who poured on the pressure.

JUST forced a succession of corners but luck simply wasn't on the Blues' side around goal.

The entertainment was first class, not one spectator left the ground until the final whistle. Juventus wasn't disgraced, far from it, they simply struck a Footscray side who are improving all the time and obviously had lifted for the match against the league leaders.

Juventus dropped a point because it's midfield wasn't functioning and it's key player up forward, Joe Sweeney, was eclipsed by man of the match Don MacLeod.

Any side which faces JUST as they fight

FOOTSCRAY — 1 JUVENTUS — 1



CULLEN OPENED THE SCORE

desperately against relegation had better be at their best.

Boland is playing back at his best, they have two of

the toughest central defenders in the league in MacLeod and Kyriakoules, young and raw Tom Karic is enjoying an injury-free run

with



GREG BLAKE

and improving every game. Buljevic adds a touch of experience and they have two fast, elusive and skillful goal-makers in Tapai and Kodjo.

And as per usual big Belic does a powerhouse of a job in midfield and once JUST gets Bonacic back they will test even the likes of South Melbourne Hellas.

Juventus was down on Sunday but had good players in Brown, who kept Paton quiet, Cullen and Banovic.

FOOTSCRAY: Boland, Karic, R. Marjakoules, MacLeod, Kodjo, Belic, Buljevic, Tapai, Paton, Lujic, **JUVENTUS:** Banovic, Lewis, Campbell, Brown, Dowie, Wade, Miranda, Peterson, Cullen, Sweeney, Zinni, (Incantalupo 72) **REFEREE:** J. Fearn **CROWD:** Appx. 3,500

HEIDELBERG STOLE THE POINTS

Finalists Heidelberg put together yet another unconvincing performance at home to West Adelaide on Sunday but stole victory with a goal six minutes from time by Steve Tasios.

HEIDELBERG — 1 WEST ADELAIDE — 0

The no again, off again resignation of coach Brian Garvey and the recent resignation of president Sam Gouloupoulos and a couple of his Committee-men has obviously unsettled the former Greek league 'leaders' efforts on the park.

Heidelberg lacked plenty in a game which was equally lack-lustre and certainly there was little to please the hardy souls who braved the bitter Melbourne cold to see the clash at Olympic Village.

Heidelberg showed a little form after half time but it was only the younger players, in particular second-gamer Tsolakis, who led the way.

The more experienced

heads in the Bergers line-up just couldn't get into Sunday's game as the home supporters would have expected.

It looked for all the world like the game was to end without a goal until Tasios met Stevenson's 86th minute cut back with an accurate header to give Heidelberg an unsatisfactory 1-0 win.

HEIDELBERG: Oliver, Kckie, Marley, Angele, Christopoulos, Metaxis, Selemidis, Tasios, Stevenson, Yankos, Tsolakis.

WEST AD: Crook, Atsalis, Brown, Hiern, Honeyman, Stefanopoulos, Panagis, Genakis, Manou, Price, Mousoulis.

REFEREE: B. Upjohn

CROWD: 1,500.

DON'T WRITE OFF CROATIA

Three weeks ago the changes in coach and playing staff at Melbourne Croatia seemed to be taking it's toll on the club.

MLB CROATIA — 4 BRISBANE CITY — 1

But anyone who had written off Croatia had better think again after their clinical destruction of Brisbane City at Olympic Park last Sunday.

Croatia, led by exciting newcomer Ante Ljubic and his two goals, played some brilliant football at times in a promising display with the finals looming.

Brisbane City were demoralised and beaten well before half time and were lucky not to be on the end of a right old spanking by game's end.

Croatia created at least 20 scoring opportunities during the game, scoring four times and missing two or three certain goals.

Brisbane City was a beaten and broken team at the end of 90 minutes and they were lucky to walk away with just 4-1 scoreline against their name.

And Melbourne Croatia, Eddie Krncevic or not, is slowly getting back to it's best. Ljubic had Croatia ahead after only four minutes of Sunday's game netting a rebound after George Hannah's header had come off the Brisbane City post, Ljubic's second goal to make it 2-0 after 12

minutes was a gem as he weaved his way in from the left and unleashed an unstoppable drive low into the net.

Carey managed to pull one back for City on the break in the 28th minute but whatever there was of City's come-back was short-lived.

In a spirited close to the half Croatia should have scored twice more, Ljubic missing an open goal from point blank range and Jimmy Campbell crashing a shot against the Brisbane crossbar.

But 12 minutes after the break Josip Biskic got Croatia's much deserved third when he knocked home a loose ball during a goalmouth scramble.

And Gary Ward made it 4-1 six minutes from full time when he turned home a cross from Biskic.

Melbourne Croatia team manager Frank Burin, commenting on recent criticism of the club, said after the game, "We showed what we could do out there today".

CROATIA: Runje, Curcio, McIntosh, Campbell, Hannah, Antolovic, Cristaldo, (Markovac 84), Biskic, Gojevic, Ward, Ljubic.

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart, Fabrizio (Junna 65), Bromfield, Wilkinson, Milovanovic, Carey, Pimblett, Mengotti, Scriggins, Hamilton, Archer (Reis HT)

REFEREE: S. Zoumas

CROWD: 1,300



LJUBIC

ADELAIDE CITY MISSES GOOD CHANCE

Following three consecutive positive results, Adelaide City went back to a disappointing form, losing at home to Preston.

ADELAIDE CITY — 1 PRESTON — 2

After the latest results much more was expected from Adelaide City, who had climbed so spectacularly from near bottom place to the middle of the table.

A win against Preston, on equal points before the match, was expected, considering the present form of the two teams.

But Adelaide City played the wrong tactics, against the mobile Victorians, and the win went to the visitors, who now leave Kreft's team two points behind.

On a day when nothing seemed to go right for the 'Zebras', Northcote was injured in the 24th minute, and his place was taken by Scottish import, McAdam, who though showing some fine qualities needs time to get acclimatised with the robust type of Australian soccer.

Preston did not show they knew what exactly they wanted from this match, unless they went for a goalless draw. In fact little was done by either side in the first 45 minutes to make one think either team wanted to try too hard for anything else.

Then came Smith's goal, just before the half time

whistle.

On the change over, the 'home' team tried a little harder, but from a counter attack, Youth Socceroo striker, Warren Spink, put Preston further ahead, when he beat McNally with a ground shot.

Within one minute of this goal, Mullen challenged Traianidis to a good shot that both linesman and referee decreed was saved behind the line. The Preston players protested, but the referee was unmoved, and the goal convalidated.

Preston won this match almost without trying. At the same time, for Adelaide City, who had rekindled great hopes with their following, it is back to square one.

ADELAIDE CITY: McNally, Mella, Nyskous, Flounders, Tobin, Santrac, Northcote (McAdam 24'), Maxell, Mullen, Villani, Vidmar.

PRESTON: Trainidis, Opasinas, McMillan, Ilioski, (Dobson), Dunn, Heys, Flaville, Lane, Smith, Spinks Cole.

GOALS: 49' Smith, 64' Spinks (Preston); 65' Mullen (Adelaide City)

REFEREE: Ken Small
CROWD: 2000 approx



Brisbane City Keeper, Kim Wishart, pushes the ball into a corner

SUNSHINE STAY ON THE WINNING WAY

Sunshine George Cross continued on it's amazing run towards the Southern Division finals with an easy 2-0 win over Maltese rivals Green Gully Ajax in front of nearly 5,000 fans at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday.

Matters at the club reached a head last Tuesday evening when McLachlan 'resigned' under pressure from the Gully Committee. In his place Gully

Top Melbourne apprentice Jockey Darren Gauci was guest of the George Cross Club for the day and he featured in the big match build-up and was introduced to the crowd just before the kick off.

And wee Gauci, a former under 14s player at Broadmeadows, would probably have done a better job for Gully in their hopelessly out of touch midfielder than the foursome of Williams, Smallman, Campbell and Vassallo.

If Gully lost the match anywhere it was in the middle where not one of their midfielders could get into the game and Smallman capped a miserable display by missing from the penalty spot for Gully five minutes from full time.

At that stage George Cross led 1-0 after Don McLaren's 70th minute goal from a free kick, and Smallman's penalty could have seen Gully back into the match and saved them a valuable point.

But it wasn't to be and Carl Gilder bobbed up to make it 2-0 to Sunshine George Cross two minutes from time when he turned in a cross from substitute Mark Lenon.

George's stars in the prestigious derby win were defenders Steve Richardson, Tyrone James and Chris Taylor.

SUNSHINE G.C.: Kastner, Taylor, James, Bennett, Richardson, Bain, Faulkner, McLaren, Letif (Lenon), Gilder, Mitten.

GULLY: Denys, Murray, McLelland, Cannell, Hogben, Vassallo (Smart), Williams, Smallman, Campbell, Lucchesi, Lewis.

REFEREE: E. Venios
CROWD: 5,000

GREEN GULLY AJAX — 0 SUNSHINE G.C. — 2



G. Bromfield, of Brisbane City heads the ball as Ljubic watches (right)



BOBBY McLACHLAN

And just as the win has given the Cross yet another boost it has condemned the Green Gully lads to what may prove to be a desperate relegation dog-fight with Footscray JUST over the final six weeks of the season.

Gully, who's margin of three points was reduced to a buffer zone of only two over Footscray after Sunday's round, are in real trouble.

The way Gully is playing it can hardly expect to pick up too many more points before the end of the year whilst Footscray are quickly making up lost ground.

Gully has been in a slump for some time now, their horror run beginning about the time of coach Bobby McLachlan's illness.

appointed former Melbourne Croatia player Steve Short, a stubborn defender whose career has been dogged by injury since joining Green Gully as a player two years ago.

It is ironic that Short's first game as Gully coach was against one of his closest friends in George Cross boss John Gardiner.

Gardiner and his wife have helped Short cope and re-adjust since his wife tragically passed away in February of last year.

But Gardiner and his team did Short's Green Gully no favours on Sunday in a match not terribly high in standard but providing plenty of entertainment none-the-less.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE by Peter Russell



SYDNEY CITY — 3 INTER-MONARO — 2

This is a game that Sydney City should have won by the proverbial mile had they converted their superiority into goals, but in the closing minutes Inter-Monaro almost sneaked a share of the points as they grabbed two goals in the last six minutes.

The first half hour of the match was uneventful with neither side creating any real chances, but in the 29th minute John Foxman should have opened the scoring for the Slickers when he found himself clear on the left just twelve metres out, but his angled shot went meekly past the far post.

Fortunately a minute later and the Slickers skipper Graeme Patterson fired them into the lead when a Michael Lynch shot found him in the clear eight metres out after deflecting off a defender. 1-0.

Nine minutes later John Foxman broke clear of the Monaro defence on the left to find himself in a similar position as before with just the keeper to beat, this time his angled shot found the mark. 2-0. With the last kick of the first half Ross Panebianco shot over from ten metres out. Half time 2-0.

The Slickers continued to dominate the opening period of the second half with balls flying liberally across the face of the Monaro goal with no one ball to make contact with it. It was no surprise in the 65th minute when second half substitute Tony Parish hooked in a Jamie Rankin cross from 6 metres. 3-0. The Slickers onslaught continued with Saad and Foxman finding the arms of the Inter keeper Robert Chicco with regular monotony and as they were piling on the pressure their own defence became slack until in the 84th minute a lazy throw-in by Jamie Rankin deep in his own half was intercepted by Vic Carnovale who immediately planted it past a stranded Michael Blanco in the Slickers goal. 3-1.

This inspired the boys from the Capital who threw everything at the Slickers in a desperate attempt to salvage something from the game, they were rewarded with a penalty in the 88th minute which was converted by Lino Fiorese, but they had left their effort too late.

SYDNEY CITY: Blanco, Rankin, Lynch, Briggs, P. Falconer, Harper (Gough), Lundy, Foxman, Patterson (Parish), Saad.
BEST PLAYERS: Jeff Briggs, John Foxman, Abbas Saad
INTER-MONARO: Chicco, Nesci, B. Monterosso, Dachs, Florian, Menegon, Fiorese, Heidemanns, Carnovale, Felizza, Panebianco.
BEST PLAYERS: Robert Chicco, Martino Nesci, Robert Heidemanns.

SYDNEY CROATIA — 0 WOLLONGONG CITY — 2

The Wollongong Wolf Cubs, the envy of their N.S.L. counterparts continued as pacesetters on Saturday at the Croatian Sports Centre and accounted for their hosts by two goals to nil.

Darren Nees lifted his personal tally to nine for the season when he opened the scoring in the 15th minute with a typical goal, racing away from the defence before rounding the keeper and slipping it into the empty net from an angle. 0-1.

Midfielder John Brown sealed it for the Wolves in the 70th minute when he volleyed home a Brian Condron cross from the edge of the penalty area. 0-2.

CROATIA: Watson, Cosic, Samardzic, Berkopec, J. Basic, Samardzic, Caleta, Kero, Medanic (Dujic), Clinch (Baresic), Lerotic.
BEST PLAYERS: Tom Lubanovich, Alan Berkopec, Michael Baresic.

WOLLONGONG: Velkov, Grozdanov, Wunsch, Wright, Matias, Brown, Condron, Giannone (Stefanovski), Nees, Corridini, Donnelly.
BEST PLAYERS: Darren Nees, Klaus Wunsch, Jeff Wright.

SYDNEY CROATIA — 3 ST GEORGE — 1

After their defeat at the hands of pacesetters Wollongong on Saturday the Croatian Youth side bounced back with a fine win on Sunday at home to the unpredictable St George side by 3-1.

They took charge right from the outset and opened

the scoring through Shane Clinch in the 2nd minute. 1-0. No further goals were scored in the first half which remained fairly even.

Croatia started the second half in the same fashion they had the first half when Joe Caleta scored their second goal in the 51st minute. 2-0. Scott Ollerenshaw scored the Saints consolation goal in the 69th minute. This defeat dropped the Saints to an unaccustomed spot of third from the bottom of the table and just two points away from the wooden spoon.

CROATIA: Watson, Cosic, Samardzic, Berkopec, Basic, Kovacic, Caleta, Barosic, Medanic, Clinch, Lerotic.
Subs: Lubanovich, Mravunac, Dujic.

BEST PLAYERS: Not available.

ST GEORGE: Rodic, Wilson, R. O'Shea, Grbevski, Zantides, Marino, High, Rapo, Watson, Kotsias, Ollerenshaw, Subs: Warren, de Filippas, George, Aranyi.

BEST PLAYERS: Not available.



JOE CALETA
—Croatia Youth—



GEORGE MCCULLOCH
—Blacktown Youth—

WOLLONGONG CITY — 0 PENRITH CITY — 2

The league leaders were reminded that it's not over yet when they were brought down to earth by last placed Penrith in the upset of the round. Many people will tell that a clear leader of a competition should never be beaten by a team anchored in last place of the same competition, but that is just what makes soccer the unique game that it is.

From the tenth minute of the game, when Wolves defender Klaus Wunsch deflected a Dario Martino shot into his own net, things didn't go right for the Wolves in this very scrappy game, played in the face of a very cold South Westerly wind.

There was little goalmouth action throughout the match with the game being doggedly fought out in the midfield with neither side really gaining any great superiority over the other. It wasn't until the 61st minute that the deadlock was once again breached, but only from the penalty spot after Nick Grozdanov was penalised for pushing. George McCulloch scored from the spot. 0-2. He was later sent off in the 88th minute for a 'professional foul' on Tony Corridini.

WOLLONGONG: Billington, Grozdanov, Wunsch, Wright, Matias, Brown, Wellbourn (Najdoski), Condron (Rogers), Nees, Corridini, Donnelly.
BEST PLAYERS: Jeff Wright, Klaus Wunsch, Nick Grozdanov.

PENRITH: Hayes, Montgomery, McCulloch (sent off 88m), Jones, Vandenberg, Carbone (Ginn), Thompson, Girardi, Martino, Lowe, Csoka.
BEST PLAYERS: Stewart Montgomery, Dario Martino, Dennis Csoka.



ANDY SERVAS
—Olympic Youth—



RUSSELL GENDLE
—Blacktown Youth—

A.I.S. — 2 NEWCASTLE — 0

It was Newcastle Rosebuds second game in four days when they travelled down to the Capital to play the Australian Institute of Sport on their synthetic pitch. But after their good 2-1 win over the improving Marconi side on Wednesday evening it was disappointment for the Rosebuds against an A.I.S. side that is starting to put its game together again.

It was an excellent game in which both sides were determined to play football but which the A.I.S. side dominated from start to finish, but were never allowed to relax by a Newcastle side that never gave up.

The Institute opened the scoring in the 16th minute when Jason Polak sprinted clear on the right before sending in a good cross that found the head of Lou Hristodilou who despite the close attention of two defenders sent a glancing header into the corner of the net from the penalty spot. 1-0.

The Youth Soccerroo striker thought he had scored a

similar goal in the 75th minute as he was challenged in the air by keeper Peter Gunning, but as the ball bounced into the empty net the referee adjudged that he had fouled the keeper who had to be replaced, with defender Ross Milosevic taking over between the sticks for the remainder of the game.

The Institute sealed the game in the 80th minute when Jason Polak sent Paul Foster clear at the centre circle and he raced away before slotting it home from the edge of the box. 2-0.

A.I.S.: Jones, Healey, Cummings, Reynolds, McLennan, Mullen, Polak, Sharpe, Pasakos, Hristodilou, Foster.

BEST PLAYERS: Michael McLennan, Kurt Reynolds, Jason Polak

NEWCASTLE: Gunning (Graham), Milosevic, Rasmovski, Garland, Taylor, McGuinness, Fawkes, Chapman, Turnbull (Hamilton), Mason, Robertson

BEST PLAYERS: Tony Rasmovski, Matthew Garland, Peter Gunning.

CANBERRA CITY — 0 NEWCASTLE — 1

In the Rosebuds third game in five days they bounced back with a gritty win against second placed Canberra City Olympians to lift themselves into third place on the League table, giving us the unusual sight of the first three places being filled by provincial clubs.

The way the Canberra Olympians started one expected a landslide of goals to follow when Tom Alexakis going close with a shot then a header, closely followed by a shot and volley from Tony Lemeza which were also wide of the target. Rosebuds Glen Chapman also went close with a good effort from 15 metres, but the half closed with Newcastle keeper Steve Dorman making a good save from Gus Cerro.

The second half was more evenly contested but with the Olympians still slightly on top. But it was the Rosebuds who scored against the run of play in the 82nd minute when midfielder Brett Taulves chased a long clearance down the middle of the park and shot from just inside the Canberra area past keeper George Economopoulos. 0-1.

CANBERRA: Economopoulos, Baxter, Allen, Nelson, Shields, Cerro (Johnstone), Biancolin, Mazis, Fernandez, Alexakis, Lemeza (Murray).

BEST PLAYERS: John Nelson, Dario Biancolin, Peter Mazis.

NEWCASTLE: Dorman, Milosevic, Rasmovski (Graham) Garland, Taylor, McGuinness, Taulves, Robertson, Hamilton, Mason, Chapman.

BEST PLAYERS: Tony Rasmovski, Andrew Taylor, Ross Milosevic.

BLACKTOWN CITY — 0 MARCONI — 1

In a good game at the Gabbie on Sunday Marconi fully deserved their narrow win over the Blacktown Demons to continue their revival under new coach Roberto Vieri. Both sides created plenty of chances with the main difference being Peter Freeman in the Demons goal who had an outstanding game.

The only goal of the game came in the 39th minute after Marconi were awarded a free kick outside the Blacktown area. The ball was floated across the penalty area to the left side where it fell to full back Joe Rizzotta, his fierce shot was parried by keeper Freeman and striker Ian Reid was on hand to knock it home for his 13th goal of the season.

BLACKTOWN: Freeman, Gendle, Fudge, Shaw, Page, Quarby, Thompson, Scott, Plumb (Bow), Edwards (Brown), Bower.

BEST PLAYERS: Russell Gendle, Craig Thompson, Sean Fudge

MARCONI: James, Konc, Rizzotta, Camburn, Chambers, Driene, Genc (Okon), Markovski, Reid, Monsalve, Gunning (Levy).

BEST PLAYERS: Darren Chambers, John Konc, Aytec Genc.

LEICHHARDT — 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC — 2

Two goals in the last five minute gave this revamped Olympic side both points against the strong Leichhardt side, lifting them from their unaccustomed position on the bottom of the table.

The game was scoreless up until the 86th minute when Olympic striker Chris Polias notched his tenth goal of the season. 0-1. Midfielder Steve Politi clinched it for Olympic in the 88th minute. 0-2.

LEICHHARDT: Kyprianou, Zullo, Maresso, Edmonds, Coiro, Van Blerk, Beddoni (Gabrielle), Parison, Mason, Masi, Bartolillo (Jaffar).

BEST PLAYERS: Not available.

OLYMPIC: Bouhoutsois, Zervas, Spanoudakis, Haniotis, Svinos, Politi, Mazzotta, Chillas, Polias, Ciarabella (Stavropoulos), Ogan.

BEST PLAYERS: Not available.

Support Youth
Soccer

ON THE BALL

By Peter Russell

THE BIG GAME

I wonder when the powers to be will recognise the money spinning potential in the fierce rivalry that has developed between the Soccerroos on the soccer field. There has always been a 'friendly' hatred between the Aussies and the Kiwis over the years in all sports, but that competitiveness has intensified since the "All

Whites" success at the expense of the Soccerroos in the 1982 World Cup.

What would be wrong with making this match an annual event on the Australian and New Zealand Soccer Calendars, one match only, played in the respective countries in alternate years and the respective Associations

scheduling the games in their own country at which ever centre they desire. In other words they may prefer to make the game a regular bi-annual pilgrimage by their fans to one city for the game or give each State or City a turn to stage the game.

By making it a regular fixture on their Soccer Calendars the respective Football Associations can plan far enough ahead (two or three years at least) being careful to avoid likely World Cup elimination dates. This

advance planning would enable supporters in various centres to plan in advance, excursions to watch the game and most importantly it will enable the various Junior Soccer Associations throughout the country to programme their fixtures to enable the maximum number of junior players to attend.

This 'annual' fixture could be developed to rival that of the annual Scotland Vs England fixture and other great rivalries at international level such as

Hungary Vs Austria, Brazil Vs Uruguay or (dare I say it) even the Rugby League 'State of Origin' matches. It's one thing that is really missing in this country 'THE BIG GAME'.

Secretary of the Leichhardt club and has kept himself fit over the years as a player coach with various clubs around the Metropolitan area.

PRESSURE POINT

When the N.S.L. doubled up last weekend and this weekend to play their deferred games, fans and clubs alike get a taste of what their English counterparts undergo every Xmas and Easter break, when many an English Championship is won or lost over the crowded holiday schedule.

A BOLT FROM THE BLUE

An old familiaf name reappeared on the goalscoring list of the National Youth League last weekend; Archie BLUE. The former J.U.S.T. Melbourne and APIA Leichhardt stalwart who was a member of the first and ill-fated World Cup Soccerroos in 1985, is the current

YOUTH LEAGUE full results and tables

Wednesday, 19th June, 1985

NEWCASTLE 2 - MARCONI 1

Robertson, McGuinness

Markovski

Saturday, 22nd June, 1985

A.I.S. 2 - NEWCASTLE 0

Hristodilou, Foster

CROATIA 0 - WOLLONGONG 2

Nees, Brown

Sunday, 23rd June, 1985

WOLLONGONG 0 - PENRITH 2

Wunsch, McCulloch

CANBERRA 0 - NEWCASTLE 1

Taulves

BLACKTOWN 0 - MARCONI 1

Reid

LEICHHARDT 0 - OLYMPIC 2

Polias, Politi

CROATIA 3 - ST GEORGE 1

Ollerenshaw

CLINCH, Caleta, Medanic

SYDNEY CITY 3 - INTER-MONARO 2

Patterson, Foxman, Parish

Carnovale, Fiorese

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wollongong	16	12	0	4	34	20	24
Canberra	14	8	3	3	28	20	19
Newcastle	16	9	1	6	21	16	19
Leichhardt	14	6	4	4	21	17	16
Sydney City	13	6	3	4	34	18	15
Croatia	16	5	5	6	25	26	15
A.I.S.	11	5	4	2	29	30	14
Marconi	16	4	6	6	32	30	14
Inter-Monaro	17	5	3	9	25	40	13
Blacktown	15	5	2	8	25	31	12
St George	13	5	2	6	24	31	12
Olympic	17	3	5	9	23	36	11
Penrith	16	4	2	10	22	38	10

LEADING GOAL SCORERS

Ian REID (Marconi)	13
Chris POLIAS (Olympic)	10
Lou HRISTODILOU (A.I.S.)	9
Scott WATSON (St George)	9
Graeme PATTERSON (Sydney City)	9
Darren NEES (Wollongong)	9
Tony CORRIGINI (Wollongong)	8
Bruno BEDDONI (Leichhardt)	8
Marlo PERINOVIC (Canberra)	7
Stan MEDANIC (Croatia)	7
Paul FOSTER (A.I.S.)	6
Gary JONES (Blacktown)	6
Abbas SAAD (Sydney City)	6
Graeme FLETCHER (Sydney City)	6

	A.I.S.	BLACKTOWN	CANBERRA	CROATIA	LEICHHARDT	MARCONI	MONARO	NEWCASTLE	OLYMPIC	PENRITH	ST GEORGE	SYDNEY CITY	WOLLONGONG
A.I.S.		5-1				2-2	2-0	0-0	7-3				1-2
BLACKTOWN						0-1	4-0	1-3	0-0	3-1		2-2	2-3
CANBERRA				2-1	2-2	4-3	1-1	0-1	1-4	4-2	4-1	3-2	
CROATIA						3-3	3-2	1-0	1-1	1-1	3-1	0-0	0-2
LEICHHARDT						2-0	0-0		0-2	0-0		1-1	1-0
MARCONI													
MONARO													
NEWCASTLE													
OLYMPIC													
PENRITH													
ST GEORGE													
SYDNEY CITY													
WOLLONGONG													

With all five teams in the top five places winning, there was no change at the top of the table, but this may change to Melita's benefit on Sunday when the two teams in the lead meet.

Melita had the best win, defeating the wooden spooners, 4-1, to stay in the shadow of the two joint leaders, just one point behind.

Kuringai had trouble defeating Auburn by a single goal, but this win, however close the score, keeps them at the top, on equal points with Fairy Meadow, who won by a similar margin, against the stronger Manly team.

Fairy Meadow and Kuringai now face each other in the match of the year at Fairy Meadow.

Chances are this match will end in a draw, and in this case, the team to benefit should be Melita, who are not expected to find it too hard to beat Warringah, only 3rd from the bottom, and a team that has not been doing well in this year's competition.

If this forecast is correct, then the leadership will see the present leaders joined by Melita, all on equal points.

In the meantime, Avala, who beat Rockdale, and Canterbury, winners over Polonia, have now outdistanced Sutherland by a further point, as the Sharks could do no better than draw against Warringah.

This scoreless draw caused a surprise, after Sutherland had beaten Melita 3 nil the week before. But from the unpredictable Sharks anything can be expected.

However, Canterbury and Avala now meet each other, and here again, a draw is on the cards, although Avala seem to be favoured to win.

But whatever the result between these two teams, Sutherland should benefit to some extent, if the Sharks can make sure of the 'easy' Polonia.

On form, the Sharks should have no trouble here, but again, the Sharks have been known to always stumble against the weaker teams.

Sutherland, who in respect to both Avala and Canterbury have two games in hand, are now at a time when traditionally the team sprints for a good position,

and those two games they have in hand should come to their aid, unless the team fritters away these chances.

At this stage, the two most disappointing teams

are Manly and Rockdale, both of whom had promised to be fighting for promotion but who now seem cut out from even a place in the Top Five.

N.S.W. STATE LEAGUE

BRADFORD TRAGEDY FUND Notice to readers who rang about the Bradford Tragedy fund appeal....

Permission to start this fund has not yet been obtained from the proper authorities.
As soon as this is obtained, SOCCER VOICE readers will be duly informed.
Please do not send money before further notice is given in SOCCER VOICE.



COME TO THE
BIG MATCH
at PRATTEN PARK

SUNDAY, June 30, 1985



KICK OFF
3.00pm

SYDNEY
OLYMPIC

Vs



WOLLONGONG CITY

YOUTHS GAME KICK OFF 12.45 pm

Beach Fashion of Australia



and H.M. PRODUCTIONS

SOUTHERN DIVISION PREVIEW with Greg Blake.

With the vital fifth place in the Southern Division top five still wide open a number of this weekend's games could have quite a bearing on the final make-up of the finals series.

For Preston Makedonia every match has become a final and they'll be looking for a win at home to Sunshine George Cross on Sunday to keep their final hopes alive.

In an incredible turn of fortunes for these two clubs since the first round of games George Cross must go into this match favourites.

When the pair met at Chaplin Reserve earlier in the season — that match ended at 2-2 — Preston was in the top five and had just begun its successful cup run. George Cross was still struggling to find its feet

under new coach John Gardiner at that time, but now the boot is on the other foot.

Injuries, suspensions and the poor form of more than one of Preston's much vaunted four man strike force has dropped the side not only out of the top five but, at one stage, almost into the relegation zone.

On the other hand Sunshine George Cross has become a leading contender for the top five.

Gardiner has his lads playing with cohesion and confidence, Tyrone James has added experience to the defence, Carl Gilder has become one of the best goal-making forwards in the league, the likes of Garry Bennett, Jeff Faulkner and Ossie Latif have shrugged off their reject tags

and the lesser known types in Chris Taylor and Roger Bain etc. have improved out of sight.

Georgie can go into any match now with confidence and a visit to Conner Reserve to play an out of touch and struggling Preston should hold no fears for them this week.

Brisbane Lions, after crashing 4-0 at Preston a couple of weeks back, also face a battle to get back into the top five making their clash away to 1985 league pacesetters Juventus a vital one.

Brisbane Lions have always been rated as the best finals chance of the four clubs outside Victoria but successive games against South Melbourne Hellas and now Juventus will sorely test the Lions resources.

Just as Brisbane clubs have a decided advantage at home, they seem to struggle away from Brisbane and the Lions will find Juventus a tough proposition.

Juve's quality lies in its tough, uncompromising back four — plus the brilliance of goalkeeper Yakka Banovic.

From Lions efforts against a weakened Preston defence two weeks back they'll have a tough time breaking through for enough goals to beat Juventus this week.

And Juve have the two match-winners in Mike Peterson and Robbie Cullen.

Peterson can do just about any job coach John Margaritis asks of him, and do it well while Cullen, the little winger with the big heart, is having his most consistent season since starting his NSL career with Preston in 1981.

If new star Luca Bonacic is back in the Footscray line-up in time for Sunday's game away to Brisbane City the Blues will snare another win in their quest to pull off what would be a miracle escape from relegation.

Bonacic is pure brilliance and has transformed this Footscray side not only with his own play, but in bringing the lesser players around him into the game.

Bonacic, the other newcomer in Kodja and the experience of Brank Buljevic have given JUST a shot in the arm.

And Brisbane City, like a couple of other sides already, will get a nasty shock when they meet the new look Footscray this week.

Steve Short's career as Green Gully's new coach couldn't face a sterner test than a home match with final five side Heidelberg this week.

Forget the Maltese derby against George Cross last week, anything can happen in a game like that.

This will be the test Short and his charges need to sort themselves out really for what shapes as a testing battle against relegation on the run home in the league.

A new coach often inspires a team to produce their best so Green Gully may lift and give Heidelberg a run for its money, although the Greek side must be pre-match favourites.

In other Southern Division games West Adelaide looks good enough to hold Melbourne Croatia to a draw in Adelaide and South Melbourne Hellas should beat Adelaide City at Middle Park.

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COUPON 2.

VICTORIA STATE LEAGUE

Results and Table

FRANKSTON PINES 4 — FAWKNER 3

Thomas (2), McGinagle, Webster Boyle, Quigley, Mancinelli

KNOX CITY 2 — SPRINGVALE CITY 1

Phillips, Saisi Nelson

ST ALBANS 1 — BOX HILL 1

Grgic Humble

WESTERN SUBURBS 2 — MORWELL FALCONS 1

McGuinness, Tuck Athersytech

RINGWOOD CITY 1 — ALBION TURK GUCU 1

Thompson OG

NORTHCOTE CITY 3 — POLONIA 3

Constantinou (3) Warzawski (3)

THOMASTOWN 0 — CROYDON CITY 2

Ollerton, French

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Saturday

ALBION TURK GUCU v ST ALBANS

SPRINGVALE CITY v THOMASTOWN

MORWELL FALCON v KNOX CITY

Sunday

CROYDON CITY v NORTHCOTE CITY

POLONIA v FRANKSTON PINES

FAWKNER v RINGWOOD CITY

BOX HILL v WESTERN SUBURBS

Points Table

Team	Pts
Croydon City	22
Frankston Pines	20
Morwell Falcons	19
Polonia	18
Box Hill	18
Western Suburbs	16
Thomastown	15
Fawkner	13
Northcote City	13
Albion Turk Gucu	11
Knox City	11
Ringwood City	10
St Albans	9
Springvale City	7

COMMONWEALTH BANK SOCCER CUP

Tempe High School was defeated by Sydney Tech in the fourth round of the Commonwealth Bank Soccer Cup played at Hurstville High School. The game was at a fast pace with Sydney Tech applying strong pressure from the outset. Brilliant defence from the Tempe fullback and fine work from keeper Jim

Zoras saw the score remain nil-all until 30 minutes into the first half when Sydney Tech scored. In the second half Tempe High School was nullified by the more creative Sydney Tech midfield. Sydney Tech were given a penalty in the 22nd minute resulting in a 3-0 win. Man of the match was Tempe's keeper Jim Zoras.

Acknowledgement to the Glebe & Western Weekly Junior Soccer News and Photos Wanted

11 WEEKS LEFT TO WIN A SPA BATH WILL BE DRAWN AT HALF TIME OF THE 1st LEG OF THE TOP 5 FINAL ON SEPTEMBER 4th. 1985

ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL HOT FAVOURITES

The Group 1 and Group 3 South American World Cup qualifying groups, are starting to shape up very much in the way experts had expected before any game had been played.

Last week three vital games were played.

In Group 1, Argentina beat Colombia 1-0 in Buenos Aires and now are certain to qualify for the Finals in Mexico next year. They have their home and away games with Peru to play; Peru must win both these games to take first place in the group. As such, Argentina are now very close to Mexico in 1986, while Peru could end up runners-up in the group and thus get a second chance.

Points Table

	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	F-A	Points
1. Argentina	4	4	0	0	10-3	8
2. Peru	4	2	1	1	5-2	5
3. Colombia	4	1	1	2	2-4	3
4. Venezuela	4	0	0	4	3-11	0

In Group 3, Brazil beat Paraguay, 2-0 in Asuncion, and they, too, hold a very strong position in their group. Brazil only need a draw in their last two games against Bolivia away, and Paraguay at home, to make sure of yet another World Cup Finals appearance. It looks very likely that Paraguay will finish runner-up in this group.

Points Table

	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	F-A	Points
1. Brazil	2	2	0	0	4-0	4
2. Paraguay	3	1	1	1	4-3	3
3. Bolivia	3	0	1	2	1-6	1

Thus if all goes as expected, three teams namely Chile, Peru and Paraguay look very likely to fight it out, this being their last chance to determine who will qualify for the finals next year in Mexico.



Ecstatic Brazilian supports, give a carnival atmosphere wherever the Brazilian team plays. Once again, they will be a colourful feature of next years finals

WORLD CUP PREPARATION COMPLETED

The President of the 1986 World Cup Organising Committee, Dr. G. Canedo, in a recent statement to the press, announced that all the preparations for the World Cup have been completed, and as far as he is concerned, the tournament can start tomorrow.

Meanwhile, he also stated that every single ticket for all matches scheduled to be played in Mexico City has been sold and thus, all the games which will be played in the Mexican capital, are a sell-out, one year before they are even played.

Mr. Canedo concluded his press conference by announcing that the 1986 opening match, which will be between Italy, the current World Champions, and another team, still to be determined, will be beamed live to millions of people all over the world through the Mexican - US television company, "Televisa".

IT TOOK ITALY 40 YEARS TO BEAT ENGLAND

When Italy beat England 2-1 recently in Mexico, that was the 15th time the two countries had met since they first drew in Rome (1-1) over half a century ago in 1933.

Although England has now lost the last two games against Italy, they are still ahead of the Italians, with 6 wins, as against Italy's 5 wins. (4 games have ended in a draw).

The "Azzurri" first win against England, 2-0, was in June 1973, exactly 40 years since that first historical match in Rome in 1933.

The most memorable of the England - Italy clashes over the years was their second game, which was played at Highbury in London, in November 1934. England won this game 3-2.

In that match, after Ceresoli, the Italian goalkeeper had saved a Brooks penalty in the 1st minute and with Italy reduced to 10 men in the 3rd minute, when Monti was carried off with a broken leg, England led 3-0, at the 12th minute of the game.

But two goals in two minutes by Meazza in the second half, earned the Azzurri much praise by the English soccer press.

SOCCER RULE CHANGE

In its last meeting the World Soccer governing body FIFA, passed a motion to change one of the rules of the game of soccer. This change, which will come into effect from 25th July, states that a goalkeeper who is in his own penalty area, and who had released the ball after taking four steps, will not be allowed to pick it up again, unless it has been touched by a member of his own team outside the area, or by a member of the opposing team.

If this rule is infringed, the referee will have to award an indirect free-kick. Obviously, the purpose of introducing this rule, is to quicken up play, and to cut down on time wasting, which is marring the game at the moment.

GREEK CUP FINAL

Larissa has won this year's Greek Cup Final in the Athens Olympic Stadium in front of 48,000 fans. Larissa beat Paok 4-1. Paok won the Greek championship this year and their loss was a major upset.

Larissa led 1-0 at half time, while Paok were reduced to 10 men, in the 20', when Vasilakos was sent off. In the 42' Larissa went to a 2-0 lead and Paok only managed to reduce the deficit to 2-1, before Larissa put the issue beyond any doubt with two late goals. The win is the first honour for the Larissa Club, in the top competitions.

FURTHER UEFA BANS

UEFA has imposed further heavy bans following the tragic events that occurred at this year's Champions Cup Final, in Brussels, when 38 people lost their lives.

Liverpool have been banned from European Competitions for 3 years, and there already exists an indefinite ban on all English clubs. Following this penalty, it will indeed be a very long time before Liverpool play on the Continent again.

Juventus, too, have felt the tough measures that UEFA have taken. The club has been ordered to play their next two European home ties behind closed doors.

In a record 8½ hours meeting of the UEFA Committee, it was also announced that the Belgian Football Federation will not be allowed to organise any major football events for a period of 10 years.

Meanwhile, Juventus's president Mr. Boniperti stated that he thought the 3 year ban on Liverpool a severe penalty and is a very much exaggerated one. He also stated that the decision to have Juventus play their first two European home ties behind closed doors, was indeed a heavy blow for his club, but Juventus will not appeal against the decision.

26 June 1985 - Soccer Voice - Page 15



Zico who scored Brazil's second goal against Paraguay in his team's 2-0 win which Brazil certain qualifiers for the finals next year



Zico of Brazil, inaction against Russia, at the last World Cup finals in Spain in 1982

FROM THE COMMENTATOR'S BOX



**MIKE
HILL**

LOTTERY FOR 5th SPOT

In the Southern Division with 6 rounds to go at least 4 clubs seem assured of a spot in the playoffs with Brunswick Juventus, South Melbourne, Heidelberg and Melbourne Croatia almost there but the 5th spot is a bit of a lottery.

With only Footscray and Green Gully out of contention, it seems that these 2 will fight out the relegation battle.

Both Preston and Sunshine are in a good position to clinch that final 5th spot, but you can discount Brisbane Lions who made a late run last year or Adelaide City.

In the Northern Division it's still very tight, and with teams having to double-up to catch up with postponed fixtures, the position is far from clear.

Sydney Croatia, Sydney City and Marconi seem assured of taking their slot in the playoffs with Sydney Olympic also handily placed.

Again the 5th spot is the problem area with Canberra in a good position; but don't be surprised to see St George stage a late charge, if they can reproduce the form they did last weekend in their draw with Sydney Croatia, in a match when they were unlucky not to collect both points.

St George could still have a big say in the outcome of this year's championship.

ROOS WIN TOURNAMENT BUT NO JOY FOR FANS

I thought that Australia's great victory in the recent International Soccer Tournament would have pleased all soccer fans, but it seems I was wrong. So many so-called fans have said over the last couple of weeks that the visiting overseas sides were here on holiday or under-strength.

English fans in particular point to the fact that Tottenham were very much understrength.

If Tottenham had been playing Liverpool or Everton and not Australia the only player included would have been Glen Hoddle, who was in fact in Mexico with England.



STEVE PERRYMAN

Gary Stevens, Steve Perryman, Garth Crooks and Clive Allen were all injured and in fact most of those players missed more matches in the last English season than they played.

As for Vasco da Gama and Udinese, I certainly don't believe, after seeing all the matches, that they were on a holiday.

Let's for once give credit where credit is due and that is to the Australian team who won the series fair and square.



Vasco Da Gama players arguing with referee

AEK VISITORS QUALIFY FOR VEFA CUP

AEK visitors to Australia for the August Tournament have qualified for the UEFA Cup after finishing 3rd in the Greek League.

Red Star will be in the European Cup Winners' Cup, while Psv. Eindhoven runners-up in the Dutch League, will also be in the UEFA Cup.

Australian Soccer



6pm Monday

The Olympic Airways Soccer League kicks off each week on SBS TV.

Every Monday, Les Murray presents all the action from the weekend games. Plus 'Goal of the Week' and panel discussions. Repeated Tuesday nights.

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